

MAJOR LEAGUE MANAGERS LIKELY TO CUT DOWN THEIR PITCHING SQUAD IN 1917

PITCHING OF DOUBLE-HEADERS BY MAJOR LEAGUE STARS MAY AFFECT FUTURE OF BASEBALL

Success of Demaree, Davenport, Perritt and Others Probably Will Cause Managers to Go Back to Old System of Working Hurlers

BACK IN 1884 Charley Radbourn pitched eighty full games for Providence, including thirty-eight consecutive games, of which he won thirty-four. During the season Radbourn captured sixty-six games and single-handed won the National League pennant for Providence. In those days it was a common thing for a pitcher to pitch fifty or sixty full games in a season, but after Radbourn went completely to pieces within three years managers began to work their pitchers more carefully until in the latter nineties, and since that time it became the custom to work the hurlers once every three or four days.

The downfall of Radbourn completely revolutionized pitching and the method of handling pitchers, and whereas in the old days a club carried no more than three or four pitchers, the present-day manager feels that he is shy of hurlers if he has not at least eight around, two or three of whom pitch about one game a month. Things were going from bad to worse in the matter of extravagance so far as pitchers were concerned, but the season of 1916 will go a long way toward bringing the pitching situation back to a sane basis.

For several years the pitcher has been of the opinion that he was being abused if he was asked to pitch more than thirty games a season, and he is given the title of "iron man" for pitching in forty games, many of which generally consist of finishing games for other hurlers. But a great change is about to take place, and we will venture a guess that very few clubs will be carrying ten pitchers in 1917.

Seven major league pitchers have pitched double-headers this season, something that has not been done in National and American Leagues since Joe McGinnity's day, barring Pete Schneider's attempt to turn the trick against the Phillies last season; and three of the seven have got away with a pair of victories, while only one was batted hard enough in the second contest to deserve defeat.

Others Find Double-Headers Are Not Tiresome

DAVE DAVENPORT started the "iron man" act when he beat the Yankees both games of a double-header, and then George Tyler, Dick Rudolph, Pete Schneider, Rube Benton, Fol Perritt and Al Demaree followed in the order named. Davenport, Perritt and Demaree are the hurlers who succeeded in winning both games, while Rudolph was relieved with the Braves behind, but his team won out. On another occasion Rudolph beat Brooklyn in the first game of a double-header and saved the second game by relieving Tyler.

The fans are looking about for a solution to the problem, and the only plausible one we can find is that the war with the Feds is over and the majority of the "ironclad" contracts expire this fall. The star ball player always will be in demand and will draw a large salary, but almost all of the players expect the managers to start cutting the salaries right and left at the end of the present season and are hustling as they never hustled before. That is one reason why the two races are greater than ever before.

The present-day pitcher is as fit physically to stand what the old-timers went through and should be able to do even better, as the defensive end of the game has been perfected since the days of Radbourn, Keefe, Clarkson, Ramsey and others. Radbourn's break-down was attributed to overwork in 1884, but we have it from one who knows that the greatest of all "iron men" would have lasted ten years longer if he had taken care of himself.

Joe McGinnity is still able to pitch double-headers and the "iron man" act never affected him. McGinnity could have pitched in the major leagues for five years after he left the Giants if he had not asked McGraw to let him go in order that he might purchase the Newark franchise. McGinnity was better two years after he left the Giants than he ever was, barring 1905, and he has pitched several double-headers for the Rutge team of the Union Association this season.

Present-Day Pitchers Do Not Work Enough

OVERWORK will not ruin any pitcher who takes care of himself and who has a natural easy delivery. Some of the game's greatest hurlers at the present time could not stand the strain of pitching fifty games a season, as their delivery requires too much strength, but pitchers of the Demaree and Rudolph type can stand the grind with ease, as they do not exert themselves much.

We were taken to task several times for suggesting that Al Demaree was not being given enough work, the claim being made that Demaree was too light and was not physically fit to stand more than one game every five days. But his exhibition yesterday proved beyond doubt that the slender westerner can stand the grind as well as if not a trifle better than any man in the game, again barring Rudolph.

Earlier in the season we were talking to Rudolph about the Braves' pennant chances, and he said, not immodestly: "I think we should win out, as we have five or six pitchers in good shape; but even if they should 'blow' late in the race, I really think we will be all right, because if I am in shape I can pitch five games a week without it hurting me. You know a lot of fellows exert themselves a lot, but I don't pitch that way. I merely throw, depending upon control and ability to outguess the batter. It is not much harder for me to get them up there than it is for the catcher to toss them back, excepting, of course, the worry of working the hitters."

Demaree is a pitcher of the same type. He is one of the brainiest hurlers in the game, and any time he has the average amount of "stuff" and his control is good the new "iron man" is going to be hard to beat, because he will not beat himself. Some pitchers beat themselves and make a game hard because they fail to use their head, but Demaree is always thinking and trying more to outguess the hitter than to throw them by his bat.

Managers Likely to Switch Style

THE success of the seven pitchers in double-headers will cause more than one manager and manager to do some tall thinking before next spring rolls around, and the fans can look for some modern records being shattered for number of games pitched in 1917. And so it should be, as too many pitchers do more harm than good. One major league manager recently made the remark that his pitching staff was not in shape because the pitchers did not do enough work, and he said that unless something unforeseen turns up (such as losing his job) he intended to adopt a different policy in 1917.

Demaree's brilliant feat of winning both games from the Pirates will linger a long time in the memory of the fans who were fortunate enough to be on hand. It was the first time in twenty years that a Philly hurler has pitched and won both games of a double-header in this city. Demaree's work was particularly noteworthy because of the fact that the second game was a hard fight all the way against one of the greatest pitchers in the game, Al Mamaux.

Demaree got off to a poor start in each game, but cleverly pitched himself out of trouble. In the first game the Pirates got six of their seven hits in the first four innings and had at least one runner in position to score in each inning, but when the test came Demaree always had something in reserve. In the last five innings of this battle the Pirates got just one hit, a "Texas leaguer" to right by Warner in the sixth.

Mamaux Gave Al a Great Battle

SO HELPLESS were the Corsairs in the first game that Manager Moran asked Demaree if he would like to go back to the mound. Demaree informed Moran that nothing would suit him better, so the Philly pilot decided to take a chance, as he had no other pitcher excepting Ripsey, whom he wanted to save for another game, to send against Mamaux. It looked like certain defeat before the game started, so it was an excellent chance to take.

At the start of the last game it looked very much as if Demaree was due for a sound rubbing, but he actually did not seem to be warmed up despite the nine innings of toil in the first game, and after he pulled himself out of a couple of bad holes Al was seldom in trouble thereafter. While Pittsburgh scored the tying run in the ninth, Demaree was just as fast, had as good a curve ball and was even steadier than when the first game started.

Pitching and winning a double-header from the Phils was quite a feat that Fol Perritt of the Giants, pulled, but it was nothing compared to Demaree's work, for the simple reason that there was so much at stake for the champions. Two runs in eighteen innings with the pennant race so close was a wonderful feat, but not so great that both Alexander and Demaree cannot repeat it before the season ends.

The Red Sox took another fall out of the Tigers and are now firmly entrenched in first place. The White Sox won from the Mackmen and advanced to second place, but the Mackmen again gave Howland's all-stars a great battle. It was the fifth game the Mackmen lost to the two pennant contenders by one run within the last week. It looks very much as if the Red Sox have the flag clinched and only a complete reversal of form can turn the tide.

Cincinnati's victory over the Braves helped the Phillies quite a lot, but as the Reds are the next team to visit this city, Manager Moran is worrying just a trifle about how to stop the stoppage of the Reds in the short home field.

SOMEBODY IS ALWAYS TAKING THE JOY OUT OF LIFE

